

The Sun

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navy will never be able to accumulate during the war the 500 of undersea boats deemed necessary by her authorities to carry out successfully against the defenses erected by England, France, Italy and the United States the Von Tirpitz programme. A great many of the submarines were constantly in dry dock for repairs, and the finding of crews for those on active service presented constantly increasing difficulties. Admiral Sims has said that the U-boats at sea were much fewer in number than the public generally supposed. Captain Paderewski, the German naval critic, has put it at not higher than a score at any time. Unrestricted undersea warfare actually was restricted by mechanical limitations, and by the intelligent and daring methods of repression adopted to overcome it.

From the facts now available it appears that the authors of ruthless sea at sea overlooked two important factors: their lack of capacity to send to sea enough U-boats for their purpose, and the skill and resourcefulness of their enemy nations in fighting those they did get out.

Interned Germans.

The request of the German Government, transmitted to the armistice commission at Spa, for the liberation of all interned Germans raises questions not only of military expediency but of domestic policy.

In this country the utmost consideration has been shown to enemy aliens, and only those considered actually dangerous to the United States have been interned. So liberal has the Government been that there has been a great deal of dissatisfaction with its handling of this matter.

Already there is a demand that some of the aliens now under confinement shall be deported. If this course is to be adopted new legislation may be necessary, and it should be enacted before the individuals it will affect are set free. Should the Government decide, on the other hand, that we have nothing to fear from these once dangerous persons, they should not be thrown on their own resources possibly to become the cause of disaster.

It will not help an alien to have it known that he was regarded as a dangerous enemy during the period of active hostilities. The liberated men will surely not many difficulties in their paths here for a long time to come. What their lot would be in Germany it is now impossible to tell, but it is well known that many men and women of German antecedents who two years ago were proclaiming their intention to make Germany their home after the war now milk in another fashion.

The future of the interned enemy aliens is not to be decided offhand, but for their good and our good must have careful study.

How Massachusetts Welcomes Her Gallant Sons.

In Massachusetts it has been recognized that the welcoming of returning soldiers is not exclusively a matter of brass bands and shrieking sirens, and that the task of the reception committee is likely to cover a considerable period. Consequently the State authorities have undertaken the formation of a comprehensive organization which is to coordinate the efforts of all the towns and cities and insure an orderly and uniform greeting to the soldiers and sailors when they get back to civil life.

The "Massachusetts Committee to Welcome Returning Soldiers, Sailors and Marines" has headquarters in the State House, and Louis A. Coolidge, its chairman, is in correspondence with the Mayors of all the cities and the Selectmen of the towns. It has reminded these civic authorities that: "Some who went out will not return, and those who do return will not be what they were."

"They have passed through the fire of a supreme adventure; they have felt a quickening of the spirit; they are alive with love of country; they have a clearer understanding of the meaning of America, a higher vision of republican ideals, a better knowledge of their own responsibility and power as citizens of a free State. Into a few months of their youth there has been packed experience which in peaceful times would be the growth of years."

"They left their homes as boys. They come back men."

The State committee wants all the political subdivisions to plan at once for suitable ceremonial observances, and while it seeks not to interfere with local projects, asks that in so far as practical all towns and cities adjust themselves to a harmonious and consistent scheme. Although it is to be expected that at least a year will be occupied in demobilization and men may be arriving home every week, Mr. Coolidge and his associates want every man to be greeted cordially and to receive from his friends and neighbors the recognition due his uniform.

To accomplish this it is proposed:

"In order that each community may have as speedily as possible an authentic record of its own men in the service the Adjutant-General of the State requests that every man be asked immediately upon his arrival to register with the town or city clerk. We earnestly hope that this request will be complied with by the designated officers throughout the State."

"We suggest that wherever local committees of welcome are not already in existence they be formed at once, in order to make sure that no man arriving shall want for adequate attention. We request that we be kept informed as to the personnel of these committees."

"We suggest that on the first Sunday in February the citizens of each community assemble in an appropriate meeting place in order to extend a welcome to soldiers and sailors who have then

come home, and that on the first Sunday in each succeeding month so long as demobilization shall continue a similar meeting be held, with such ceremonies as seem appropriate to the locality."

"We recommend that the Grand Army of the Republic and the Spanish War Veterans be invited to join in this observance."

"We recommend that April 19— Patriots' Day—be set apart as a fit time in which all citizens shall do honor to the survivors of this and other wars—through patriotic demonstrations, addresses and parades."

Patriots' Day is an anniversary not now generally observed outside of the old Bay State, where Lexington and its memories are publicly cherished; but every State has particular cause to set aside at least one day for special celebration of its own patriotism. To link the past with the present in the manner contemplated by the Massachusetts committee appeals at once to sentiment and reason. On such a day we should rejoice in the unbroken and unimpaired devotion of America to the ideals of her founders.

Of the enduring monumental structures which will be raised in honor of the present army and navy the Massachusetts authorities have already taken cognizance. "The time will soon be here," they say, "when towns and cities will plan permanent memorials. We urge that all plans be matured with care and that final action be not taken without advising with the art committee which has been named by Governor McCall."

By establishing an art committee of members qualified to pass on proposed monuments the Commonwealth is doing its best to prevent the erection of unsightly or inappropriate works whose presence would be cause for regret in the future but which could not be removed without apparent ingratitude. Here is a hint other States may find useful. The curbing of uninformed zeal in the erection of public memorials would be a blessing everywhere.

How lucky indeed is Homer Iliad that he gave his name to the euphonious construction of which permits its adaptation as a byword for food saving, thus rendering conservation popular.

The cold wave arrived late; perhaps it started from Chicago by aerial postal service.

Germany's newest battleship, the Baden, will be surrendered at a British port, with the few remaining German ships, to the Allies, according to an announcement here. The Baden is a battleship of the very latest type. It has a displacement of 35,000 tons, and is armed with 16.5 or 17 inch guns. After the war began little is known as to its armament. It has been reported that ships of this class had been armed with 16.5 or 17 inch guns, but information on this point has been meagre and unreliable. — Report from London.

What a melancholy trial trip!

By visiting the birthplace of Columbus President Wilson reminds the world that it took the Germans until 1917 to discover America.

THE TELEPHONE SERVICE.

It Is Denied That Federal Control Has Led to More Complaints.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—In the SUN of December 20 there was printed a contribution under the heading of "Where Uncle Sam Falls as a Boss," relative to the poorer service the public is now receiving under Government control, compared with that under individual ownership.

Evidently the writer of the article does not realize that we have just emerged from the greatest war in the history of the world, and our labor problems have not begun to adjust themselves to normal conditions. In such a period of reconstruction, I do not deem it just to place all the blame for every abnormal event upon Federal control. Heeding his statement that it is dangerous to generalize from limited experience, I will not attempt to give a thorough treatise on Government management in general, but I do wish to point out some of the reasons for the control of the telephone system.

In these statements Mr. Smith speaks of the telephone service as being unsatisfactory under present control, emphasizing that "inattention, forgetfulness of numbers called and the giving of wrong numbers are now rare." The writer of the article, I think, will agree with me that were it so inclined the telephone industry could have just grounds to claim that its facilities for securing employees have been sadly crippled in recent months by the constant drain of operators and prospective operators by the war wages paid in munition plants and other war enterprises. In preference to submitting such an alibi, the companies have taken on such employees as can be secured, and given them their regular four weeks course in an operators' school.

You will remember that a few days after the armistice celebrations were held the New York papers printed articles commenting upon the great efficiency and speed shown by the telephone operators in handling an amount of traffic unequalled previous to the war. I have no doubt of my belief that the excellent service rendered by the New York Telephone Company regarding the increase in the number of complaints of poor service under Government control. I was informed that the number of complaints had not increased, and that everything they had received from the public had been handled with the utmost efficiency. I am not sure that the expression of public opinion is not conclusive as to the kind of telephone service being rendered under Government control.

B. L.

New York, January 4.

Gratuitous Contribution to the Next Edition of the Dictionary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Free for any lexicographer:

State Senator: The official way of stifling and muffling in swaths of red tape all initiative and enterprise in trade, industry, transportation, communication or finance.

J. HOWARD CORNWELL.

ENGLISHTOWN, N. J., January 4.

A By-product.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: President Wilson's name has effected one thing at least for which all will be grateful. Playwrights no longer need the name over every other butler they "create."

S. K. WILSON.

OAK LAKE, Pa., January 4.

POLAND'S DESTINY.

Gutson Borglum Asks American Sympathy for a Struggling Nation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The newspaper headlines inform us that "Poland will wage warfare on the whole Russian border." Also there is specific announcement that the "Bolsheviks have entered Polish territory." We all know that the Lithuanians, under German direction, have been a menace and irritant to this struggling state for many months. We all know, also, that after the Poles entered and signed the mid-European compact, celebrated so quaintly at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, October 26, Poland, through Paderewski, protested against the presence in that compact of agencies of small states in middle Europe represented or controlled by German or pro-German agents. And we all know that this protest, while acknowledged by Paderewski, was never met nor properly answered.

But we do not know, that is, the American public does not realize, either the importance of Poland in forming the link that must complete the chain between the Teuton and the eastern Slav, or the frankness and confidence and the lack of newspaper propaganda indulged in so extravagantly by other mid-European states) that cost Poland the support of this country—a support that she had not only the right to expect but which we should have had the statecraft to have seen she deserved and been granted.

Long talks with Dmowski, Paderewski and his associates—all brilliant, generous, yet undeveloped Poles of vision and vested with the authority of their national council—showed that they did all that man could and should do to secure the Poles proper recognition.

There is no food product in the world that can take the place of milk. Recently, in a Western State, an investigation was made of 125 families who did not use milk upon their tables, but used substitutes, and 80 per cent. of them had the "flu" and 40 per cent. of the 80 per cent. died. Among 125 other families who used milk freely only 5 per cent. had the "flu," and of those only 2 per cent. died.

There you have a concrete example of the value of milk, based on a fairly comprehensive survey.

And yet we hear that endless refrain in the homes of the city, in the press and circulated through numerous other propaganda agencies about the undernourished children, and the long train of disease and death which has followed a lack of milk that costs approximately 10 cents a pound!

We do not hear much about the high cost of clothing, of shoes, of a sandwich, a very small glass of beer or a cocktail. That is not a concept in a matter of course. Milk is the food upon which all eyes, consumptive, judicial and commercial, are focused, but until your investigators go out unbiased and receptive to truth and facts gathered from the dairymen themselves, there can be no determination as to whether there is "profiting" or not.

Professor George F. Warren of Cornell has prepared a formula of average cost of producing milk, upon which are based league prices.

Among other things objected to in the formula by interests opposing the league is one allowing the proprietor 40 cents an hour for his labor. Think of it. Denying him a wage approximating that of a section man on a railroad!

I recall that some years ago dairy farms could be purchased very cheaply. Then, the basis of all mixed feed, was \$12 a ton. Other concentrated feeds sold at proportionate prices. From the market reports in THE SUN of even date I quote wholesale price of several leading feeds at \$20 a ton, \$22 middlings, \$24 all meal, \$25.50.

It is perhaps too well known to mention here that cows will not give much milk in the winter months without a balanced ration of the concentrated feeds in addition to dry grass and hay. Therefore, it would appear even to the layman's mind that with an increase of 400 per cent. in cost of feed, 100 per cent. for labor, and a greatly increased outlay for machinery and implements indispensable to dairy farming, it must cost more to produce milk.

In December the dairymen received about nine cents a quart, and December to the first month they have had the cost of production.

ARTHUR T. BRISQVOS.

President, Dover Plains Branch, Dairy-men League.

DOVER PLAINS, January 4.

ITALY IN DALMATIA.

The Impression of an American Traveler Abroad.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I observe that one of your correspondents said a few days ago that "not one American could have thought of Dalmatia as Italian." May I say that to most Americans who have traveled in that country the Italian character of land and people has been striking.

From the Roman ruins to the Venetian buildings, the language and appearance of the people in the streets, and the habits of everyday life, one is constantly reminded of Italy.

The hotels and restaurants are mostly in the hands of Austrians or Germans, and there are many Croats among the population; but with climate, products, works of art and people strongly suggestive of the other side of the Adriatic, it seems a mistake to assert that no American could have thought of the connection.

NEW YORK, January 4.

THAKELLER.

THE DAIRYMEN'S SIDE.

Feed Quadrupled in Price, Labor Doubled, Up Goes Milk.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The endless investigations relative to production, distribution and price of milk to the consumers continue to bewilder the truth seeking public with slight promise of a just solution based on facts that cannot be controverted.

The so-called John Doe action instituted to determine whether the dairymen had or had not profited, collectively, from the price of milk beyond costs of production and a reasonable profit has not thus far adduced any evidence to prove that any such motive exists, nor has any light been shed on the problem involved in the production of milk from the point of view of the individual dairyman.

So far as the Dairymen's League is concerned, its status has been determined by legislative enactment, and most superficial investigation of the dairymen ought to convince the unprejudiced mind that this great organization asks for nothing more than the privilege of guaranteeing to its members a price for their product that will enable them to walk erect among other successful business men in the various industries of the country.

We are no longer going forward like "the lightning bug with his headlight on behind."

It is conceded that the retail price of milk is high. So is the retail price of every commodity, and necessity of life. It is not conceded by dairymen that the price of milk is out of proportion to its food value, as compared with meats, eggs and canned goods. Why is it that people in the cities have not been better informed on this subject?

There is no food product in the world that can take the place of milk. Recently, in a Western State, an investigation was made of 125 families who did not use milk upon their tables, but used substitutes, and 80 per cent. of them had the "flu" and 40 per cent. of the 80 per cent. died. Among 125 other families who used milk freely only 5 per cent. had the "flu," and of those only 2 per cent. died.

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DOVER PLAINS, January 4.

THE STAMEN ISLAND FERRY.

A Horrible Example of the Possibilities of Government Ownership.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: With regard to this case for Government or municipal ownership of railroads, trolley lines and various other industries, as an American citizen I hope I need not say any more city or Government ownership than we have already, and that is the ferry running to Staten Island.

If run by a private corporation and service it in the condition and service it is giving the public it would be roasted to pieces.

It is becoming a wreck and run in any shape or form. In rainy weather passengers need umbrellas or raincoats for the trip.

Last week there was an appropriation of \$15,000 just for extra of four ships, which is about five-eighths over private cost.

That is a fair sample of municipal ownership.

AMERICAN CITIZEN.

NEW YORK, January 4.

POLAND'S SOLE HOPE.

Commissioner Declares Refusal Would Cause 2,500,000 Deaths This Winter.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—A strong appeal for a loan from the American Government to the Polish nation was made tonight by John F. Smulski, Polish Commissioner to the United States, in the chamber of Ignace Paderewski. It is based on the plea that Poland, while not technically at war with Germany, gave a quarter of a million of her sons to fight Prussianism and by barring the way to Russia prevented a German victory in the first year of the war. The appeal followed conferences among representatives of the Polish nation, the State Department and the Food Administration.

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